Air pollution

3863. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* NEEM AFZAL:
SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air pollution caused by motor vehicles has reached alarming levels;

(b) whether carcinogenic gases such as beazopyreae are also present in unacceptable levels due to auto pollution;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take/ has taken to contain the unacceptable high levels of air pollution in Calcutta and other cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Vehicular exhausts constitute one of the major sources of air pollution in areas having high traffic density. It is estimated that in metropolitan cities, the contribution of vehicular exhausts to the air pollution levels range from 65 to 70 per cent.

(b) and (c) According to the air quality survey carried out by the National Environmental Engineering Institute (NEEI) Nagpur the levels of Benzopyrene in a few cities have been found to be higher than the acceptable level of 10.0 nanograms per cubic meter.

(d) Steps taken to control air pollution in cities include the following:

(i) Emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection), Act, 1986.

(ii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(iii) Industries have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment on a time-bound basis. Legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(iv) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards.

(v) 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these industries have been asked by the State Governments to comply with the effluent and emission standards on a time-bound basis.

(vi) A network of ambient air quality monitoring stations have been set up.

(vii) Financial incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas as also for utilisation of solid waste such as fly ash and physphogypsum.

(viii) A notification making environmental statement mandatory has been issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. As per this notification all polluting units seeking consent are required to submit an environmental statement to the concerned State Pollution Control Boards.

(ix) A scheme on adoption of clean technologies to the Small Scale Industries has been prepared.

(x) Gross and mass emission standards for vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(xi) Steps have been initiated to introduce Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in major cities, this will reduce the increasing trend of nitrogen dioxide in the cities.

(xii) A programme of running battery powered buses has been taken up in some cities to minimise vehicular pollution in congested areas of traffic.

Pollution of Yamuna

3864. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any concrete plan for cleaning the highly polluted Yamuna as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 12th August, 1993:

(b) whether any project report in this regard has been prepared by a team of Experts; if so, the recommendation thereof:

(c) whether any suggestion in this regard received from this Overseas Economic Co-operative fund, Japan, if so, with what proposal indicating the cost involved; and

(d) what action Government of India have taken/likely to take in the lights of suggestion made by various national international organisation like EPA (Environmental Protection of the U. S.) and Lemna Corporation etc. with regard to cleaning of the Yamuna River?